

General Strike Urged to Aid Steel Workers

Labor Leaders Explain What They Consider Ethical Justification of United Move; Seek Public Sympathy

Retaliation at Polls Hinted

State Federation Meeting Planned to Decide Course in "Fight for Rights"

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 11.—A movement for a general strike of all Pennsylvania trade unionists went forward to-day while steel strike leaders developed before the Senatorial investigating committee what they consider the ethical justification of such a general strike. It is not to be a sympathetic strike, according to labor leaders, but a strike of all organized workers in the state to be permitted to hold open air meetings and parades in times of industrial conflicts. It is not denied that such a strike would promote the steel strike as well as one by another name, but it is made plain that Pennsylvania is likely to have to choose between favoring the steel strikers or facing a general strike.

While a swarm of witnesses was telling the Senators that they or others had been deprived of the right of assembly, insulted and beaten by police and strikers, molested in their homes, intimidated and generally harassed and persecuted, President Maurer, of the State Federation of Labor, was hastening to call a meeting of the executive council of the State Federation in Harrisburg to-morrow or Monday to arrange to summon a convention, to be made up of one delegate from each of the 1,600 unions in the state, to call a general strike unless, in the mean time, the authorities relax the grip that has so far restricted

organization and strike activities in Western Pennsylvania. The machinists of Pittsburgh, through their central committee, will vote to-morrow to take the initiative in the campaign.

Strike Leaders Get Whole Day

Strike leaders were given almost the whole day by the Senate investigating committee to try to prove the assertion of union organizers that "the long arm of the Steel Trust has reached into the government of Western Pennsylvania to strangle the workingman's right of free speech and free assembly." Chairman Kenyon only interrupted the long procession of strikers' witnesses twice, once to call Mayor E. V. Babcock of Pittsburgh, and later to hear I. M. Scott, president of the Wheeling, W. Va., Iron and Steel Company.

"We can't meet anywhere in rented halls," J. G. Brown, an organizer, said, referring to Duquesne, McKeesport, Clairton and other steel towns. "One way or another they have closed us off. If it isn't the burgess, it's the Sheriff, and if it isn't the Sheriff, it's the Board of Health."

W. B. Rubin, attorney for the national strike committee, backed him up by calling three attorneys who have assisted him, according to testimony, in trying to defend before police courts some scores of strikers arrested.

Complaints of Troopers

"There isn't much use in trying," Jacob Rowe, one of the lawyers, declared. "The troopers or the special police arrest our men on any sort of pretext, and the magistrates put them through the mill fast. If they are strikers, it's \$10 and ten days, and if they are working, it's 'clear out of here.'"

Andrew Pido, a Clairton worker, said he had told a striker who decided to go back to work to "watch out or you'll get hit with a brick."

He had been promptly arrested, he said, and when he was taken to jail the threatened man was invited to come into his cell "and knock my block off."

"He did, too," Pido said. Chairman Kenyon called him, said that good order had been kept within the Pittsburgh city limits during the strike. This he attributed in a large measure to precautions taken by the authorities.

President Scott, of the Wheeling Company, said his group of plants had been closed completely, as had been other mills in the district. He criticized operation under union conditions as tending to lower production.

Matt O'Reilly, an assistant roller in a rod mill at Donora, was called by the committee independently of the union representatives.

"We are striking for better working

conditions, eight hours and the right of free speech," he told the committee. Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, asked him how much he earned, and O'Reilly said he averaged about \$16 a day.

"That's mighty good wages," Senator McKellar remarked "almost as much as a Senator gets. Why does a man who earns that much take a chance on his job?"

"I'd be willing to take less and work fewer hours," O'Reilly responded.

The Rev. Father Albert Kazcini, of St. Michael's Church, Braddock, testified that his parishioners were attacked by the state police on leaving services the morning of September 21. Father Kazcini said the hours in the mills were long and the living conditions terrible.

Woman Ridden Down in Riot

Mrs. Mary Wiscowitz, a Serbian, was called by Attorney Rubin and, through an interpreter, told of being ridden down by a state trooper when a strike meeting was being broken up. She conceded that she didn't think the trooper had intended to single her out from the crowd for particular treatment.

Senators Kenyon and McKellar put every witness almost through a catechism to develop the percentage of for-

eign-born participating in the strike, and drew estimates that from 50 to 75 per cent of the strikers could be so classed.

"We'll try to pass some laws to get more Americanization before we get through," Senator McKellar told several witnesses.

Chairman Kenyon adjourned the session until 2 p. m. Sunday, explaining that the committee planned to return to Washington Sunday night to allow members to vote on amendments proposed to the peace treaty now before the Senate.

16 Mills at Warren, Ohio, Will Reopen To-morrow

WARREN, Ohio, Oct. 11.—Sixteen mills will start operation at the Trumbull steel plant on the 7 o'clock shift Monday morning, company officials announced to-day.

Since differences between the company and employees were settled here last Wednesday, workmen have been busy getting the plant ready for operation. It is expected the other sixteen mills will be ready for operation early in the week.

Mills Fool Pickets, Start 3 Furnaces

Mahoning Valley Plants Smuggle In Men and Violence Is Threatened

Special Correspondence

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Oct. 11.—Mahoning Valley steel companies made the first successful attempt to operate since the inauguration of the steel strike to-day, when three blast furnaces at the plants of the Republic Iron and Steel Company, the Brier Hill Steel Company and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company were blown in.

The partial resumption at these mills was executed so quietly and so suddenly that the pickets on duty did not realize that several hundred men had casually drifted into the mill until the smoke began to belch from the stacks. It was the first sign of activity in the

mills in the entire Youngstown district since the strike started.

So quietly did the men enter the mills that there was no excitement and no trouble of any kind. But this was chiefly due to the fact that the pickets were taken unawares, according to strike leaders. Company officials declared that this is the beginning of the crumbling of the strike.

Shortly after the stacks started to belch smoke a hurried meeting of all of the strike leaders of the valley was held behind closed doors. Afterward strikers declared emphatically that the mills would not continue to operate, and that if "violence was necessary, violence would be forthcoming."

Mayor Craver conferred with Police Chief Watkins late to-day. Every precaution possible, he said, would be taken to avoid trouble Monday.

U. S. Women to Aid Russia

Pledge Money for Food, Says Cooper Union Speaker

Gregory Zilboorg, who was secretary to the Labor Ministry of the first Provisional Russian government, announced last night that "a group of

conservative American women" had a few hours before agreed to contribute enough money to charter ships and send food supplies to Russia. He declined to give any further details of the project.

The announcement was made at a meeting of Cooper Union under the auspices of the Russian Economic Relief Committee, where Mr. Zilboorg was a speaker. The meeting adopted a resolution urging the immediate lifting of the blockade against Russia. Copies of the resolution are to be sent to President Wilson and both houses of Congress.

French City Presents Statue to U. S. Navy

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Ambassador J. J. Jusserand to-day presented to the navy, on behalf of the City of de Grasse, France, a bronze statue in commemoration of the arrival overseas of the first American warships conveying troops to France. The statue was received by Secretary Daniels and will be placed on the cruiser Seattle, flagship of Admiral Gleaves in the first convoy of American troops to France.

Car Inspectors Join Altoona Shop Strike

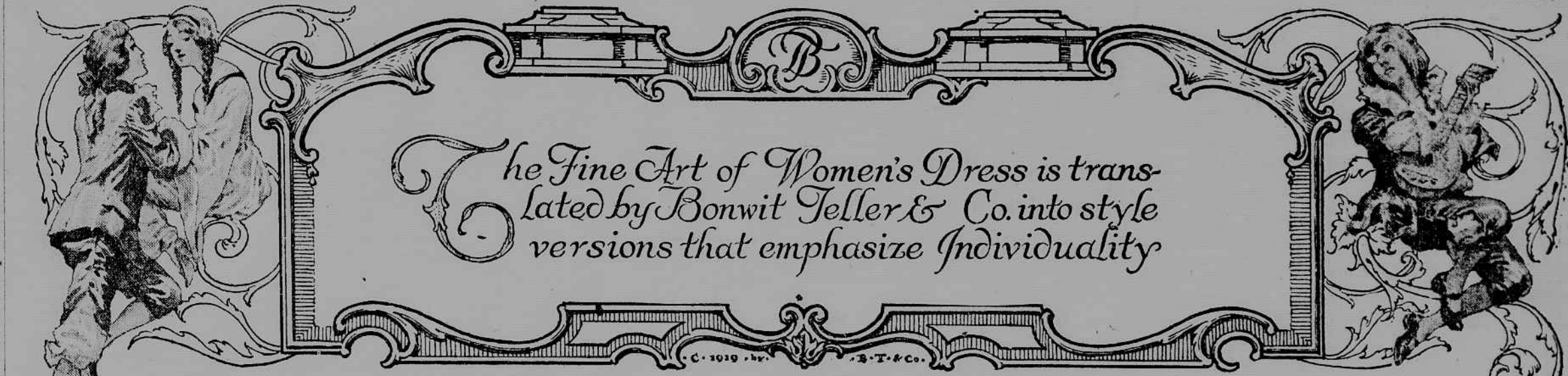
Federation Officials Take Steps to Have Unauthorized Walk-Out Called Off

ALTOONA, Penn., Oct. 11.—Obeying a call from the officers of their organization, the Pennsylvania Railroad car inspectors in this district joined the shopmen strikers to-day, increasing the number of idle men to about 12,000.

Train service has not been interrupted and good order prevails. Both sides are apparently awaiting instructions from Washington.

J. B. Jewell, acting president of the railways employees' department, American Federation of Labor, wired from Washington urging General Chairman Jones, of the federation, to "take the necessary action to have the employees on illegal strike resume work promptly."

Chairman Jones conferred with strike leaders this afternoon, but no steps have yet been taken toward a resumption of work.



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